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HOUSE BILL 2144 By  
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SENATE BILL 2710  
By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-3-406; Section 57-4-203; Section 57-5-301 and Section 57-3-207, relative to age verification through photographic identification of purchasers of alcoholic beverages, wine or beer.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-3-406, is amended by designating the language in subsection (d) as subsection (d)(1), and by adding a new subsection to be designated as subsection (d)(2) to read as follows:

(d)(2) Each retailer shall verify by means of photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth that no person purchasing the product is younger than twenty-one (21) years of age. A violation of this subdivision is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-4-203(b), is amended by adding a new subdivision designated (b)(4) to read as follows:

(b)(4) Each licensee or other person who shall sell, furnish, dispose of, give, or cause to be sold, furnished, disposed of, or given, any alcoholic beverage shall verify by means of photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth

that no person purchasing the product is younger than twenty-one (21) years of age. A violation of this subdivision is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-5-301, is amended by deleting subsection (a) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) (1) A permit holder engaging in the business regulated hereunder or any employee thereof shall not make or permit to be made any sales to minors. Neither the person engaging in such business nor persons employed by him shall be a person who has been convicted of any violation of the laws against possession, sale, manufacture and transportation of intoxicating liquor or any crime involving moral turpitude within the last ten (10) years.

(2) Each permit holder engaging in the business regulated hereunder and any employee thereof shall verify by means of photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth that no person purchasing the product is younger than twenty-one (21) years of age.

(3) A violation of subdivisions (a)(1) or (a)(2) is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-3-207, is amended by deleting subsection (j) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(j) Each licensee or other person who shall sell, furnish, dispose of, give, or cause to be sold, furnished, disposed of, or given, any wine shall verify by means of photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth that no person purchasing the product is younger than twenty-one (21) years of age. Any licensee or other person who shall sell, furnish, dispose of, give, or cause to be sold, furnished, disposed of, or given, any wine to any person under the age of majority as established by § 57-4-203(b), commits a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000, the public welfare requiring it.

